

D-TYPE FLIP-FLOP WITH A REDUCED NUMBER OF TRANSISTORS

5 Background of the Invention:

Field of the Invention:

The invention relates to a D-type flip-flop and to a D-type flip-flop with an activation input.

- 10 In integrated circuits having a large number of flip-flop circuits, the required chip area is determined to a significant extent by the area of the flip-flops. In the circuit to be integrated, a large number of required flip-flops lead to a very large chip area or have the effect that  
15 it is not possible for the entire circuit to be integrated in a chip.

The flip-flop circuits are, usually, constructed from a master latch and a slave latch, the master latch accepting a data  
20 signal present at the data input with a first edge and the slave latch accepting the data signal with a second edge, from where it can, then, be tapped off at a non-inverting and an inverting output. For such a purpose, in each D-type flip-flop, an inverted clock signal can be formed from the clock  
25 signal present by an inverter circuit and a non-inverted clock signal can be formed from the inverted clock signal by a

further inverter circuit so that the non-inverted clock signal and the inverted clock signal can be made available to the master latch and to the slave latch.

5 Usually, both master latch and the slave latch include a clock-level-controlled holding element into which data are accepted with the aid of the first and the second clock edge, respectively, and are stored permanently, i.e., statically, therein depending on the clock level. Making the non-inverted  
10 clock signal and the inverted clock signal available for the master latch and the slave latch means that at least two or four transistors are required, which increase the area required in the integrated circuit.

15 Summary of the Invention:

It is accordingly an object of the invention to provide a D-type flip-flop with a reduced number of transistors that overcomes the hereinafore-mentioned disadvantages of the heretofore-known devices of this general type and that can be  
20 constructed with a small number of transistors so that it is possible to reduce the area of the D-type flip-flop in an integrated circuit.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, there is  
25 provided, in accordance with the invention, a flip-flop having a clock input for the application of a clock signal, a data

input for the application of a data signal, a non-inverting output, and an inverting output. The flip-flop has a data acceptance unit and a storage unit. The storage unit substantially includes a feedback loop with a first and a  
5 second inverter circuit having feedback to one another (SRAM cell). The non-inverting output is coupled to an output of the first inverter circuit and the inverting output is coupled to an output of the second inverter circuit. The data acceptance unit is configured, depending on the data signal present and  
10 the clock signal present, to allocate a predetermined programming potential either to an input of the first inverter circuit or to an input of the second inverter circuit and to apply no potential to the input of the respective other of the first and second inverter circuits. The data acceptance device  
15 has a first switching element to apply the predetermined programming potential to the input of the first inverter circuit depending on the clock signal and the data signal. The data acceptance device, furthermore, has a second switching element to apply the predetermined programming potential to  
20 the input of the second inverter circuit depending on the clock signal and the data signal.

The flip-flop circuit according to the invention has the advantage that it manages with a smaller number of transistors  
25 and that separate switching elements are used by virtue of the provision of a first and a second switching element for

switching the programming potential. This has the advantage that no interactions can occur between the input of the first inverter circuit and the input of the second inverter circuit.

5 In accordance with another feature of the invention, it may be provided that the first switching element is connected up such that it is activated in the event of a first level of the clock signal and a first level of the data signal and is inhibited in the event of a second level of the clock signal  
10 and/or a second level of the data signal. The second switching element may be connected up such that it is activated in the event of a first level of the clock signal and a second level of the data signal and is inhibited in the event of a second level of the clock signal and/or a first level of the data  
15 signal. As such, the programming potential is applied to the input of the first inverter circuit if a first level of the data signal and a first level of the clock signal are present and the programming potential is applied to the input of the second inverter circuit if the second level of the data signal  
20 and the first level of the clock signal are present. Through application of the programming potential to the respective node of the feedback loop, the storage unit is programmed, i.e., a potential is impressed that corresponds to the information to be stored and is held by the feedback of the  
25 feedback loop.

In accordance with a further feature of the invention, the second switching element is activated in the event of the first level of the clock signal and the second level of the data signal and is inhibited in the event of at least one of  
5 the second level of the clock signal and the first level of the data signal.

In accordance with an added feature of the invention, it may, furthermore, be provided that the first switching element is  
10 coupled to an output of a first partially clocked inverter to apply the inverted data signal to the first switching element in the event of a second level of the clock signal or in the event of the first level of the clock signal given the presence of the second level of the data signal and to apply  
15 no potential actively to the corresponding node of the first switching element given the presence of the first level of the clock signal and the first level of the data signal.

In accordance with an additional feature of the invention, it  
20 may, furthermore, be provided that the second switching element is coupled to an output of a second partially clocked inverter, the second partially clocked inverter being connected to the output of the first partially clocked inverter to apply a non-inverted data signal to the second  
25 switching element in the event of a second level of the clock signal and to apply no potential actively to the second

switching element in the event of a first level of the clock signal.

As such, the driving of the first and second switching  
5 elements can be carried out by the first and second partially  
clocked inverters. As a result, the switching elements can be  
driven with comparatively few transistors. In contrast to  
customary circuits in which partially clocked inverters  
include four series-connected transistors, two of which have  
10 to be driven with an inverted clock signal and a non-inverted  
clock signal, the first and second partially clocked inverters  
which are used in the invention have only three series-  
connected transistors, only one of the transistors being  
driven by the non-inverted clock signal. As such, it is  
15 possible to avoid the situation in which an inverted clock  
signal has to be made available within the flip-flop circuit.

In accordance with yet another feature of the invention, it is  
preferably provided that the first and second partially  
20 clocked inverters are configured such that, in the event of a  
change in the clock signal from a second level to the first  
level given an unchanged data signal, the inverted data signal  
is present at the output of the first partially clocked  
inverter and, consequently, the non-inverted data signal is  
25 present at the output of the second partially clocked inverter

in any case until the data signal is stored in the storage unit.

In accordance with yet a further feature of the invention, an  
5 activation input is provided to activate or deactivate the flip-flop with the aid of an activation signal. In such a case, the first switching element and the second switching element are activated or inhibited in each case depending on the clock signal, the data signal present at the data input,  
10 and the activation signal, so that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal, the information of the storage element remains stored independently of the clock signal present and the data signal present. As such, it is possible to realize a D-type flip-flop with an activation input in  
15 which the activation input can be implemented in a simple way and in which case the implementation of the activation input requires a smaller number of transistors than in previous D-type flip-flops. Furthermore, existing layouts have to be changed only to an insignificant extent because the storage  
20 element and also the first and second switching elements can be retained substantially unchanged.

In accordance with yet an added feature of the invention, it may, furthermore, be provided that the first switching element  
25 is coupled to an output of a first partially clocked gate to apply the inverted data signal to the first switching element

in the event of an activated activation signal and in the event of a second level of the clock signal, to apply no potential to the first switching element in the event of a deactivated activation signal, and, in the event of the first  
5 level of the clock signal and an activated activation signal, to apply either the inverted data signal to the first switching element if the second level of the data signal is present or no potential to the first switching element if the first level of the data signal is present. As such, it is  
10 possible to make available to the first and second switching elements drive signals that depend on the data signal present, the clock signal and the activation signal, and the driving being effected with the aid of a first and second partially clocked gate. As such, the activation input can be realized  
15 with a very small number of transistors.

In accordance with yet an additional feature of the invention, it may be provided that the second switching element is coupled to an output of a second partially clocked gate, the  
20 second partially clocked gate being connected to the output of the first partially clocked gate to apply a non-inverted data signal to the second switching element in the event of an activated activation signal and in the event of a second level of the clock signal, and to apply no potential to the second  
25 switching element in the event of the first level of the clock signal and/or in the event of a deactivated activation signal.



In accordance with again another feature of the invention, preferably, the first or the second switching element is connected to the first and the second partially clocked gate  
5 such that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal and in the event of the first level of the clock signal depending on the data signal stored in the storage unit, the first or the second switching element is activated to retain the information stored in the storage unit. For such a purpose,  
10 the outputs of the first inverter circuit and of the second inverter circuit may be fed back to the data acceptance unit and be connected up there such that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal, precisely one of the first and second switching elements is activated so that a programming  
15 potential is applied to the input of the first or the input of the second inverter circuit. Such a configuration ensures that that node of the feedback unit that is at the programming potential is reliably held at the programming potential. In other words, the potential at the output of the feedback  
20 inverter circuits that is at a potential that corresponds to the inverted information of the programming potential is intended not to be able to be inadvertently connected to the programming potential by the corresponding switching element. This could be effected, in the event of a deactivated  
25 activation signal, e.g., through floating of the control signals present at the switching elements.

With the objects of the invention in view, there is also provided a flip-flop, including a clock input for the application of a clock signal, a data input for the application of a data signal, a non-inverted output, an  
5 inverted output, a data acceptance unit having a first switching element and a second switching element, a storage unit having first and second inverter circuits connected in a feedback loop, the first inverter circuit having a first input  
10 and a first output coupled to the non-inverted output, the second inverter circuit having a second input and a second output coupled to the inverted output, and the data acceptance unit allocating, dependent upon the data signal present and the clock signal present, a predetermined programming  
15 potential either to the first input or to the second input and to apply no potential to the respective other input of the first and second inverter circuits, the first switching element respectively applying the predetermined programming potential to the first input, and the second switching element  
20 respectively applying the predetermined programming potential to the second input.

Other features that are considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

Although the invention is illustrated and described herein as embodied in a D-type flip-flop with a reduced number of transistors, it is, nevertheless, not intended to be limited to the details shown because various modifications and  
5 structural changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention and within the scope and range of equivalents of the claims.

The construction and method of operation of the invention,  
10 however, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings.

15 Brief Description of the Drawings:

FIG. 1 is a schematic circuit diagram of a D-type flip-flop circuit in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention; and

20 FIG. 2 is a schematic circuit diagram of a D-type flip-flop circuit with an activation input in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments:

25 Referring now to the figures of the drawings in detail and first, particularly to FIG. 1 thereof, there is shown a D-type

flip-flop 1 having a clock input 2 for the clock signal CLK. The D-type flip-flop 1 furthermore has a data input 3 for a data signal D. The D-type flip-flop circuit 1 has a storage element 4 and a data acceptance circuit 5.

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The storage element 4 substantially includes two inverter circuits having feedback to one another, a first inverter circuit 6 and a second inverter circuit 7, the first and second inverter circuits 6, 7 in each case including a P-channel transistor and an N-channel transistor connected in series. An input of the respective inverter circuit 6, 7 is situated at the control terminals of the transistors, which control terminals are to be contact-connected jointly. An output of the respective inverter circuit 6, 7 can be tapped off at the interconnected terminals of the P-channel transistor and N-channel transistor. Furthermore, an operating voltage is present across the transistors.

The first and second inverter circuits 6, 7 have feedback to one another, i.e., the output of the first inverter circuit 6 is connected to the input of the second inverter circuit 7 at a second node K2, and the output of the second inverter circuit 7 is connected to the input of the first inverter circuit 6 at a first node K1. The stored non-inverted data signal can be tapped off at the output of the first inverter

circuit 6 and the stored inverted data signal can be tapped off at the output of the second inverter circuit 7.

The information to be stored is written to the storage element  
5 4 by a first switching element or device 8 and a second switching element or device 9.

The first switching device 8 has a first transistor T1 and a second transistor T2, which are connected in series. A control  
10 input of the first transistor T1 is connected to the clock input 2. A control input of the second transistor T2 is connected to an output of a first partially clocked inverter 10. The data signal D is present at the input of the first partially clocked inverter 10 through the data input 3. The  
15 first switching element 8 is connected to a programming potential, preferably, a ground potential, in order, in the event of activation of the first transistor T1 and of the second transistor T2, to apply the ground potential to the first node K1, i.e., to the input of the first inverter  
20 circuit 6.

The second switching element 9 has a third transistor T3 and a fourth transistor T4. The third transistor T3 and the fourth transistor T4 are connected in series so that, in the event of  
25 activation of the third and fourth transistors T3, T4, the programming potential or the ground potential is applied to

the second node K2, i.e., to the input of the second inverter circuit 7. The control terminal of the third transistor T3 is connected to the clock input 2 for the application of the clock signal CLK. A control input of the fourth transistor T4 is connected to the output of a second partially clocked inverter. The first, second, third, and fourth transistors T1, T2, T3, T4 are configured, preferably, as N-channel transistors.

10 The first partially clocked inverter 10 has a fifth N-channel transistor T5, a sixth P-channel transistor T6, and a seventh P-channel transistor T7. A first terminal of the seventh P-channel transistor T7 is connected to a high supply voltage potential  $V_{DD}$ . A second terminal of the seventh P-channel transistor T7 is connected to a first terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 and a second terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 is connected to a first terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5. A second terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5 is connected to the ground potential GND. The first terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5 and the second terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 are connected to the control terminal of the second transistor T2 of the first switching element 8. Control terminals of the fifth N-channel transistor T5 and of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 are connected to the data input 3 to apply the

data signal. The clock signal CLK is applied to a control terminal of the seventh P-channel transistor T7.

The second partially clocked inverter 11 has an eighth N-channel transistor T8, a ninth P-channel transistor T9, and a tenth P-channel transistor T10. A first terminal of the tenth P-channel transistor T10 is connected to the high supply voltage potential  $V_{DD}$  and a second terminal of the tenth P-channel transistor T10 is connected to a first terminal of the ninth P-channel transistor T9. A second terminal of the ninth P-channel transistor T9 is connected to a first terminal of the eighth N-channel transistor T8 and a second terminal of the eighth N-channel transistor T8 is connected to the ground potential GND. Control inputs of the tenth P-channel transistor T10 and of the eighth N-channel transistor T8 are connected to the output of the first partially clocked inverter 10, i.e., to the second terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 and the first terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5. The clock signal CLK is applied to the control terminal of the ninth P-channel transistor T9.

The series-connected transistors can be arbitrarily interchanged without adversely affecting the function of the circuit.

The flip-flop circuit 1 described above is able to accept a data signal at the data input 3 into the data acceptance unit 5 in the event of a low level of the clock signal CLK and to write it to the storage element 4 in the event of a high level of the clock signal CLK. The process of writing to the storage element 4 is effected through the first switching element 8 and the second switching element 9, only one of the two switching elements 8, 9 being activated, while the respective other switching element is inhibited and, consequently, no potential is applied to the node K1, K2 of the feedback loop that is present at the switching element. The node K1, K2 of the feedback loop that is connected to the activated switching element 8, 9 is pulled to a low level corresponding to the ground potential GND and is inverted by the corresponding inverter circuit 6, 7 so that a high level is present at the respective other node K1, K2 of the feedback loop. The two nodes K1, K2 of the feedback loop of the storage element 4 are available as outputs of the flip-flop Q, QN, the first node K1 corresponding to the non-inverted output Q and the second node K2 corresponding to the inverted output QN.

The two switching elements 8, 9 serve for setting the storage element and are controlled by a semi-stable dynamic latch. This latch has the advantage that it can substantially be constructed with a smaller number of transistors than a static latch in a conventional D-type flip-flop.



By two partially clocked inverters, which are clocked only in the pull-up path, i.e., by the seventh P-channel transistor T7 and by the ninth P-channel transistor T9 with the aid of the  
5 clock signal CLK, the complementary input levels are generated, from the data signal D, at the first node K1 and the second node K2 of the storage element 4. In the event of a low clock level of the clock signal CLK, the first and second partially clocked inverter circuits 10, 11 are activated so  
10 that the seventh and ninth P-channel transistors T7, T9 are activated in order to operate the first and second partially clocked inverters as inverters. In the event of a high clock level, the partially clocked inverters 10, 11 do not represent inverting gates so that substantially no drive signal driven  
15 through from the data input from the low level to the high level is forwarded to the first and the second switching element 8, 9.

However, the first clock-controlled inverter 10 is not  
20 completely inhibited because a rising edge, i.e., a high signal level at the data input 3, can cause the output of the first clock-controlled inverter 10 to be pulled from a high level to a low level. This level change could affect the output of the D-type flip-flop only if the hold time of the  
25 circuit were not properly complied with because the path that is to be kept open for a minimum duration and is connected to

the node K1 would, then, be closed prematurely in the driving of the storage element 4. The hold time is not complied with when the signal to be written, which is intended to be impressed on the feedback loop, is present at one of the nodes of the storage unit 4 only for an excessively short time duration.

To rewrite the information stored in the storage element 4 on account of a signal change - taking place during a high clock level - at the data input 3 from a low to a high potential, the second switching element 9 would have to be activated. This can only take place if the second partially clocked inverter 11 outputs a high signal level at its output in order to activate the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9. This is not possible, however, because, by virtue of the ninth P-channel transistor T9 being off, the output of the second partially clocked inverter 11 cannot assume a high potential if switching delays occur.

The provision of mutually separate switching elements 8, 9 has the advantage that the nodes K1, K2 of the feedback loop cannot be short-circuited to one another if switching delays occur.

The flip-flop described above has the further advantage that it has a significantly reduced area requirement compared with

the D-type flip-flops used heretofore. Furthermore, the D-type flip-flop circuit presented has good layout properties because, in particular, few line crossovers are present.

Moreover, the circuit proposed requires a smaller number of P-channel transistors, which usually have a greater influence on  
5 the circuit area than N-channel transistors.

The outputs of the D-type flip-flop can be tapped off at the two nodes K1, K2 of the storage unit 4. So that the feedback  
10 loop including the inverters 6 and 7 is not influenced by large input loads, provision is, preferably, made for decoupling the outputs from the downstream circuit through non-illustrated buffers.

15 In FIG. 2, provision is made of a further D-type flip-flop 20 with an activation input 21, to which an activation signal E can be applied. The further D-type flip-flop 20 has a storage element 4, a first switching element 8, and a second switching element 9, which are identical to the storage element 4 and  
20 the switching elements 8, 9 of the embodiments according to FIG. 1. Identical reference symbols indicate identical elements with an identical function.

In a further data acceptance unit 22, internal drive signals  
25 for the first and second switching elements 8, 9 are made

available with the aid of a first partially clocked gate 23 and a second partially clocked gate 24.

The first partially clocked gate 23 has an eleventh N-channel transistor T11 and a twelfth N-channel transistor T12 connected in series therewith. A first terminal of the eleventh N-channel transistor T11 is connected to the ground potential GND. A second terminal of the eleventh N-channel transistor T11 is connected to a first terminal of the twelfth N-channel transistor T12 and a second terminal of the twelfth N-channel transistor T12 is connected to the second N-channel transistor T2 of the first switching element 8.

The first partially clocked gate 23, furthermore, has a thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 and a fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 connected in series therewith. A first terminal of the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 is connected to the ground potential GND and a second terminal of the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 is connected to a first terminal of the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14. A second terminal of the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 is, likewise, connected to the control terminal of the second N-channel transistor T2 of the first switching element 8.

The data signal D is applied to a control input of the twelfth N-channel transistor T12. The activation signal E is applied to a control input of the eleventh N-channel transistor T11.

5 A transistor chain having a fifteenth P-channel transistor T15, a sixteenth P-channel transistor T16, and a seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 is connected to the second terminals of the twelfth and fourteenth N-channel transistors T12, T14. A first terminal of the fifteenth P-channel transistor is  
10 connected to the second terminals of the twelfth and fourteenth N-channel transistors T12, T14. A first terminal of the sixteenth P-channel transistor T16 is connected to a second terminal of the fifteenth P-channel transistor T15 and a first terminal of the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17  
15 is connected to a second terminal of the sixteenth P-channel transistor T16. A second terminal of the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 is connected to the high supply voltage potential  $V_{DD}$ .

20 A control terminal of the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 is connected to the first node K1, i.e., the inverting output of the further D-type flip-flop 20, i.e., to the first terminal of the first N-channel transistor T1 of the first switching element 8. A control terminal of the fourteenth N-  
25 channel transistor T14 is connected, in the same way as a control terminal of the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17,

to the activation signal E inverted through an inverter 25. The data signal D is applied to a control terminal of the fifteenth P-channel transistor T15. The clock signal CLK is applied to a control terminal of the sixteenth P-channel  
5 transistor T16.

The second partially clocked gate 24 has an eighteenth N-channel transistor T18, the first terminal of which is connected to the ground potential GNB and the second terminal  
10 of which is connected to the control terminal of the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9. A first terminal of a nineteenth N-channel transistor T19 is, likewise, connected to the ground potential GND and a second terminal of the nineteenth N-channel transistor T19 is  
15 connected to a first terminal of a twentieth N-channel transistor T20. A second terminal of the twentieth N-channel transistor T20 is connected, in the same way as the second terminal of the eighteenth N-channel transistor T18, to the control terminal of the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the  
20 second switching element 9.

The second partially clocked gate 24, furthermore, has a twenty-first P-channel transistor T21, the first terminal of which is connected to the second terminals of the eighteenth  
25 and twentieth N-channel transistors T18, T20. A second terminal of the twenty-first P-channel transistor T21 is

connected to a first terminal of a twenty-second P-channel transistor T22. A first terminal of a twenty-third P-channel transistor T23 is connected to a second terminal of the twenty-second P-channel transistor T22. A second terminal of the twenty-third P-channel transistor T23 is connected to the high supply voltage potential  $V_{DD}$ .

A control terminal of the twenty-first P-channel transistor T21 is connected to the clock signal CLK. The output of the first partially clocked gate 23, i.e., the second terminals of the twelfth and fourteenth N-channel transistors T12 and T14, is connected to the control terminals of the eighteenth N-channel transistor T18 and of the twenty-second P-channel transistor T22. The inverted activation signal E is applied to the control terminals of the twenty-third P-channel transistor T23 and of the twentieth N-channel transistor T20. The inverted output QN of the further D-type flip-flop 20, i.e., the second node K2, is connected to a control input of the nineteenth N-channel transistor T19.

20

The function of activation or deactivation of the further D-type flip-flop 20 is substantially effected by the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 and the twenty-third P-channel transistor T23. These transistors turn off in the event of a low level of the activation signal E, which indicates that the further D-type flip-flop 20 is to be deactivated. Because, by

virtue of the turning off of the seventeenth and twenty-third P-channel transistors T17, T23 in the event of a low level of the activation signal E, the drive signals for the first and second switching elements 8, 9 can no longer assume a high level, in the event of a deactivated activation signal none of the nodes K1, K2 of the storage unit 4 can be pulled by the activation of the respective switching element 8, 9 from a high level to a low level and, thus, effect toggling of the information stored in the storage element 4.

10

So that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal E, the floating control terminals of the second N-channel transistor of the first switching element 8 and of the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9 cannot pass from a low level to the high level, e.g., due to leakage currents, the eleventh N-channel transistor T11, the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13, the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14, and, also, the nineteenth and twentieth N-channel transistors T19, T20 are introduced in comparison with the D-type flip-flop 1 in accordance with the first embodiment. These transistors have the effect of switching the drive signal for the first and, respectively, the second switching element 8, 9 in the event of a deactivated activation signal such that the ground potential GND is applied to the input of the first or second inverter circuit

25



6, 7 that is at a low level for the purpose of storing the data signal.

A low level of the activation signal indicates that the D-type  
5 flip-flop 20 is to be deactivated. In such a case, the  
fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 and the twentieth N-  
channel transistor T20 attain the on state so that it, now,  
depends on the datum stored in the storage element 4 whether  
the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 or the nineteenth N-  
10 channel transistor T19 is activated. If the second node K2 is  
at a high potential, then the nineteenth N-channel transistor  
T19 is activated so that a low potential is present reliably  
at the control input of the fourth N-channel transistor T4, so  
that the second node K2 is not connected to the ground  
15 potential GND. This safeguards the stored information in the  
storage unit 4 in the event of a deactivated activation signal  
E.

The D-type flip-flop circuits according to the invention  
20 enable direct processing of the clock signal without inverters  
between clock input and clocking transistors. The data  
acceptance unit 22 is thus clocked with the rising edge of the  
clock signal CLK. Conventional flip-flop circuits have two  
latches that are generally triggered on complementary clock  
25 edges. By virtue of the fact that the inverters between clock  
input and clocking transistors can be avoided in the case of

the D-type flip-flop circuit according to the invention, it is possible to reduce the number of transistors required for a D-type flip-flop circuit and to considerably reduce the internal power loss particularly in the case of a large number of D-

5 type flip-flops used.